

Mr. M. Raman Menon (*Commissioner of Excise*): (a) Yes.

(b) Vide statement No. I—Placed on the Council table.

(c) Vide statement No. II—Placed on the Council table.

(d) Yes, resolutions have been received from the hon'ble member himself as well as from the hon'ble members Messrs. A. V. Moothedan and V. K. Kutty.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—(cont).

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the General Discussion on the Budget.

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians-Ernakulam*): President Sir, It is, indeed, a matter of much gratification that, in spite of the world being still in the clutches of economic depression, and in spite of adverse economic conditions resulting from international complications and even chaos, our happy little State is blessed with a substantially good surplus budget. But I do not give much credit to the Government for it; because with an income of 24½ lakhs from customs alone, i. e., nearly a quarter of revenue from that non-tax source only, any Government under normal conditions and with ordinary prudence in expenditure must be able to show a surplus like ours.

But there are certain things of which the Government can feel justly proud. The creation of the Revenue Reserve Fund is a stroke of statesmanly and administrative genius, while the allotment of more and more funds for the nation-building departments and the special allotment of one lakh of rupees for rural development alone are, indeed, features that are highly laudable in this year's Budget. It would be now up to the Hon'ble Minister to see that the increased allotments and the special contribution are well-spent, not in a haphazard manner, but on lines laid down by intelligent and careful planning. Certain rudimentary amenities of civic and civilised life are atrociously lacking in rural areas, and these should be first looked into. Roads, water-supplies, sanitation and medical attendance should receive precedence over other less urgent items. I would suggest to the Government to have a five or ten-year plan for rural uplift, especially as we now notice the efforts of the National Planning Committee in this matter.

Into the intricate meshes of the Budget, I shall not enter. But let me point out some directions in which a more liberal policy on the part of the Government is necessary. Although it is true that our land-tax is not unduly heavy, still owing to the economic depression and the fall in prices of agricultural products, our agricultural population is in dire distress. A remission of land revenue is therefore an urgent necessity, and many Governments in India have done this. But

so far the cry of the people and the people's representatives has been a cry in the wilderness. Sir, the Government collects 12½ lakhs as land revenue. Expenditure under this item is only Rs. 3,14,700. There is therefore a net income of rupees 9 lakhs 10 thousand and 3 hundred. When the surplus or net income is so large, why not the Government be liberal enough to grant remission of some lakhs? What if our general surplus in the budget goes down? But, Sir, it is not a big surplus on the Budget that matters, but the prosperity and well-being and relief from distress of our people. Without these there is no use of piling lakhs upon lakhs and showing that we have a surplus budget. While the Government want to squeeze out every pie that is fixed from the agriculturists, it is regrettable that the Government is doing almost nothing to improve our agriculture and make it more profitable to the ryots.

I may draw the attention of the Government to another matter that affects the rural population. I refer to the allotment for rural sanitation. On a scrutiny of the figures, Sir, you will see that that allotment is more illusory than real. On page 113 of the Budget Estimate it is seen that the allotment for rural sanitation is 1 lakh and 37 thousand rupees. That is a very creditable figure. But, it is out of this amount that the salary and allowances of the Director of Public Health and Panchayats and his establishment are to be paid. This alone comes to Rs. 57,412. Then, again, it is a curious feature that the salaries of the three Health Officers attached to the Municipalities of Trichur, Ernakulam, and Mattancheri are to be paid from this amount. What is the rurality of their work? Some Rs. 11,000 is also seen under lighting charges, which as it is carried on now, is not of much practical use for the public. At last we find from page 15 that what is called rural sanitation work has only Rs. 10,178, the total allotment being practically consumed by salaries, allowances and the establishment charges, as I have pointed out. It is also regrettable that in the policy of the Government there is nothing to relieve the problem of un-employment, nothing appreciable to foster large-scale industries and help the eventual industrialisation of the State.

Sir, apart from the Budget there are two important questions upon which I beg to place particular stress. One is the question of communal justice in the higher ranks of Government service. In spite of your just and equitable policy, communal disparities are rampant, among posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 and above; and in this respect, I venture to say, the community I represent is particularly suffering.

The second question, which is of paramount and overwhelming importance at present, is the question of further constitutional reforms. Our State has had the unique honour and enviable distinction of being among the first of the Indian States to have

introduced some measure of responsible government. But there our distinction now stops. Shall we sit content with it? Sir, when this reform was introduced the people of the State became galvanised, electrified, with exuberant enthusiasm. Today I venture to ask the honourable members of this House whether they see that this great enthusiasm still prevails amongst our people. If one reads the signs correctly, the answer is emphatically in the negative. The people's enthusiasm has flagged over this matter, and we have begun to feel that we are falling fast from the place of pride we lately had. Sir, you are the progenitor of this epoch-making reform. Will you not like to see that your progeny grows? Will you like to see that the growth is at a stand-still, or that the growth is stunted? To this it may perhaps be answered that the child must learn to walk before it runs. Those who argue so, Sir, only push the comparison beyond proper limits and thus misapply it.

Sir, I beg to recall that on an important occasion you made a great pronouncement, which went to the very root of the great problem of responsible government in Indian States. In my view, it was an original contribution to the ideology of the solution of the problem. No other Statesman in India was bold enough to make a statement of the kind either before or after. On that occasion (I think it was in Madras), you said: "I realised that the greatest asset which existed in Indian States is the loyalty of the people to the Crown. Once you let loose elements that will weaken the spirit of loyalty to the Ruler you create elements which will endanger the stability of the Ruler and the Ruling Family itself. It was therefore as much in the interest of His Highness the Maharaja and the Ruling Family as that of His subjects that I advised His Highness to associate his people effectively in the administration of the State". If this is the reason that inspired you to inaugurate the reform, I beg to submit that it is proper that you, Sir, of all who are entrusted with the interest and safety and stability of our Ruler and the Ruling Family should see—as surely you will—that the desire of the people in this respect, evinced in unmistakable terms on the floor of the House and outside, is fulfilled without undue delay.

There is also the expected advent of the All-India Federation. I wonder why the enlightened policy once adopted by the Government in taking people's representatives into confidence in the matter of joining the Federation is not now followed at this critical juncture, when the fate of the State, if it accedes to the Federation, is going to be irrevocably committed. The most serious objection raised from many quarters against the inclusion of Indian States in the Federation is that the States are backward in political progress, that they have not got the system of responsible government in them. Sir, will you not remove that stigma from our State by timely action;

and when the day arrives for our representatives to sit in the Imperial Legislature and exercise our voice in shaping the destinies of the whole of India, let that voice be respected, and let not our representatives be looked down upon as belonging to an inferior category of political entities.

Before I conclude, Sir, I wish to say that we appreciate and highly prize the various benefits and blessings we enjoy under the present regime, like the Rule of Law, individual and civil liberty, impartial and unhampered administration of justice. At the same time, we are conscious that these blessings are enjoyed by the people of the greater part of India. But it is not by these alone that our progress should be measured. Our chief standard of measurement must be that of progressive peoples, and entities, going before us, and not of those unprogressive and retrograde ones that may be behind us. Judged therefore by this standard and weighed in this balance, we still fall short and we are found wanting. Let this condition be remedied, Sir, by a happy consummation of the policy you have inaugurated, so that in respect of political development Cochin might claim not merely the foremost place among Indian States, but a position second to none in the whole polity of India.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): The time may be limited to five minutes.

Mr. President : The time may be limited to 10 minutes.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai (Nominated): Mr. President, Sir, the Government of His Highness the Maharaja has to be congratulated on the unique fortune that has favoured it this time also to enable it to show a surplus budget. I say it is a fortune, because, fortunately for the Government the unexpected imports of Java sugar, Saiagoan paddy and some other items of accidental revenue saved this year's budget position, as the sales of some land on the Willingdon Island saved last year's budget and the separation of Burma which increased our customs revenue saved the budget position year before last. Anyhow one thing is clear that it is a good augury that somehow our budget position is saved at the nick of time and even anticipated deficiency turned into a surplus, and I firmly believe that it is due not to a small extent to our own fortune of having such a saintly ruler and a resourceful Diwan.

The comparative figures for the last 10 years would disclose that while the expenditure side shows a more or less regular increase, the receipt side shows a great and irregular curve in various years. One has to conclude from this that for sound finance, the permanent commitments on the expenditure side have to be restricted a little and more sources of permanent revenue explored or better attention given for the increase in the elastic items of revenue. Among

the several items of receipts, the prominent items like land revenue and customs seem to be most inelastic. Not only that, the latter item is even threatened on account of the accumulating forces in this House in favour of prohibition. The only items that show some elasticity are those like Customs and Income-tax which solely depend upon the trade of the port. Now if we want to explore means of increasing these items it would be well to consider the several causes which alone tend to increase the trade of this port. As in our own budget, even in customs revenue, there are items of imports and exports of a more or less permanent nature and those that are accidental. In the latter comes the imported Java sugar, which comes in our port since several years past only this year, on account of failure of sugar cane crops of Northern India. These imports may continue for two or three months more, but there is no knowing when again they are going to recur as the cane crops are not bound to fail every year. The major permanent imports on which we can depend are rice and grains. I do not deny there are several other minor items. The major items of import we must understand are distributed by Cochin not only in the Cochin State but throughout Travancore and some of the Districts of the Madras Presidency like Coimbatore and Salem. There are other ports in British India and Travancore that naturally try to compete with us in this line and in our trying to give better facilities for competition to merchants in our port, depends the trade of our port. Now let us examine how we can effect this. The first thing which would increase the trade of this port, depends upon the concession in freight rates that the steamers or railways can give us. Every major port is given concessions in freight rates by the steamer companies as well as the railway companies because the facilities they get in the major ports are more than enough in compensating them by the addition of freight they can make. Unhappily our port is not enjoying these concessions and I had raised a question on this very same subject in this House last time and I am happy to learn that the Government has taken up this question in right earnest.

Secondly comes the landing and shipping dues and the landing and shipping charges collected in the port. A great confusion is made in these two items even by some merchants and I fear even the Government is made to misunderstand these. I may say here that in spite of the fact that the landing and shipping dues in the harbour are high, having risen from one anna to one rupee per ton, it would not be fair for any merchant to complain against these dues because they are necessary for the upkeep of the port and the port will not be in a position to give the increased facilities for trade that it now gives without this additional income which is essential for its progress. But it will be essential to see that only such charges are collected as are essential to the upkeep of the port, and it does not

become a profiteering item of income as in the case of cyanogassing in Mattancheri.

The case with landing charges is quite different. These are charges collected by the steamer companies or their agents for actually landing or shipping goods to and from the steamers. These charges have not been adequately reduced from their old rates existing at a time when the steamers were standing for discharge five miles off in the open sea. Even now the charges come to about 50 per cent more than the actuals and leaving a safe margin for working expenses a considerable reduction is possible and desirable. As I have given a cut motion to discuss this matter, I do not go into details now. But I would request the Government to consider these suggestions very seriously.

Now one word more about the interests I represent. I am much thankful to the Government for their policy of doing communal justice in the matter of appointments. I take this opportunity to express the deep gratitude of my community to the Government on the recent appointment of one of its most deserving members to the place of the District Judge. But as far as the Staff Selection Board is concerned, I cannot refrain from remarking that scant justice is done to the legitimate claims of my community. I am glad a committee is appointed to go into the matter and hope that justice will be done.

***Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi):** It had not been possible for me to congratulate the Government in previous years on what is generally called a surplus budget, for it generally turns out on closer examination and at the end of the year to be just the opposite. I have been closely watching the budgets for the last three years and I am glad to state that the surplus budgets of those years have been real surplus budgets in the correct sense of the term. I must therefore congratulate the Government on the all round administrative efficiency of which the budget is a fair indication. A glance at the general discussions of previous years as seen from the Official reports of the proceedings of this House shows that non-official criticism has in the main centered itself on the activities of the Government in the nation-building departments. With the historic and momentous step taken by the Government in the direction of the increased association of the subjects of the State in direct Government and the transfer of these departments to a Minister who commands the confidence of this House, the necessity and justification of such criticism vanishes. I propose therefore to confine myself to making a few observations on some subjects of major importance which have still to be tackled by Government. Foremost

**Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.*

among these I would place the question of unemployment in the State which cannot, I think, be denied by any right thinking man that unemployment in the State has assumed or is fast assuming alarming proportions. It is a large question and while I am glad to note that Government is not keeping idle over this question, I must state that much more remains to be done. The time has come when in my opinion an unemployment tax should be levied on all persons who are in receipt of incomes derived from Government. The suggestion is not new. It has been made in other countries and by other persons. Taxation in whatever form is not popular and I would therefore propose that a tax of one pie on every rupee should be levied on all monthly incomes of rupees fifty and upwards. The sum so realised should go to help the vast body of the educated unemployed that exists in the State. Such help can take various forms. There is a growing demand by some of the youths for lands at the disposal of the Government for cultivation and agricultural activities of a similar nature. It should be possible to afford financial assistance to some at any rate of these people from out of a fund so created. It is also time, I think, to seriously consider the question of lowering the age of retirement in case of Government servants at the age of 50 in the case of future recruits instead of the usual 55. But I am aware of the increasing chances of the evil tendency on the part of the new officials to become younger when they enter service which can be checked by an alert Government. Anyhow it is of some little satisfaction to note that our present Government is reluctant to grant extensions which was a common feature in old regimes. Of course I quite realise that there will be a certain monetary loss to Government in lowering the age of retirement. But this can be compensated by the fixing of a lower grade of salary.

I quite agree with the Diwan when he says that our State can legitimately be proud in the possession by it of an independent and efficient judiciary. I may be permitted to point out that in order to safeguard and maintain its efficiency frequent interchange of officers between the executive and the judiciary should as far as possible not be effected.

While I rejoice at the good fortune of Chittur Taluk on their getting a reservoir for supplementing and increasing the usefulness of the irrigation system of that Taluk, I must point out that it should be possible for Government to do something in this direction by making reservoirs to collect the waters of our rivers which drain themselves into the sea and help the kole owners of Trichur and Mukundapuram Taluks and benefit the agriculturists generally in the State by repairing the various tanks and streams in several localities which formerly greatly helped irrigation and which

now lie in an utterly neglected and useless condition. I do not know whether the Advisory Board for Irrigation have specifically referred to this matter in their recommendations to the Government. But if and when they do so I would respectfully urge upon the Government the supreme necessity of realising their importance and of accepting them wherever possible. Even legislation on the lines of the Public Reservoir Act found to exist in some countries would not be unwelcome.

The possibility of temporarily putting an end to large expenditure on costly buildings should also be seriously considered. In the field of education, while I note with satisfaction the ample provision made for increased educational facilities, I must urge on the Government the necessity of giving the Wardha system of education a fair trial at least as an experimental measure in a few schools. I read in the papers a few days ago that one of the Provincial Governments have started a school for teachers to be trained in this system. May I suggest to the Government to correspond with that Government to ascertain from them whether it would be possible to find room for two teachers from the State, a female and a male, so that they might also get themselves trained in that institution. If they agree two such teachers may be deputed at Government expense so that they might get themselves fully trained.

Coming to the question of medical relief, I should not omit to mention here that tuberculosis in the State is fast assuming dangerous proportions and that effective measures should be taken to combat this dreadful disease. I refuse to believe that there cannot be found in the portions of the State adjoining Coimbatore district a place suitable for a sanatorium. In any case a tuberculosis hospital where treatment on up to date lines can be given to the patients should be started. The expenditure on this should never be grudged, however high it may be, regard being had to the consequences of the disease upon the growing generation. I am not sure whether any portion of the contribution we have made to the Tuberculosis Fund would ever return to us. But if it does that should be earmarked for this.

I cannot conclude this speech without making a reference to the masterly analysis of our financial and other matters by the Diwan President in your opening speech. While I was hearing that speech I was reminded about the story of a prisoner who was being defended by an able advocate. The prisoner was really guilty. But as the defence advocate's arguments advanced and reached its climax he, the prisoner, began to feel whether after all he was not innocent. I came to this Council from a constituency full of agriculturists groaning under heavy debt and heavier tax burden. That

is a matter of real and actual every day experience to me. But as your speech gradually reached its conclusion like the prisoner above referred to I too began to doubt whether after all my experience is not false.

* മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്, സർ, നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ വെച്ച് എന്തുകൊണ്ടും പ്രാധാന്യത്തെ അർഹിക്കുന്ന കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ മ.മ.മ.ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും അതിൽ വരുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ഒരു അഭയാർത്ഥിയായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിന്നു യാതൊരു സംശയവുമില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും നമുക്കു സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ജനകീയമന്ത്രിയുടെ അവിശ്വസ്യമായ പരിശ്രമം ക്രാമചാസികളെ ഒട്ടാകെ ഇളക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. മാത്രമല്ല, പട്ടണപരിഷ്കാരത്തോടൊപ്പംതന്നെ ക്രാമങ്ങളും പരിഷ്കരിക്കപ്പെടുമെന്നു കാണുവാൻ പലമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഉണ്ട്. മാതൃകാപഞ്ചായത്തുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വിവിധ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചില പദ്ധതികളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ എത്ര ക്രാമങ്ങളിലേയും കഴിമടിയന്മാരെപ്പോലും ഉത്സാഹഭരിതരാക്കിത്തീർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു നിസ്സംശയം പ്രസ്താവിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

അധഃകൃതസംരക്ഷണത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ അടുത്തകാലത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു പൊളിറ്റിച്ചുത്ത് അധഃകൃതസമുദായത്തിന്റെ ഭാവിനന്മക്കു പര്യാപ്തമാകുമെന്നുള്ളതും ആർക്കും മറക്കുവാൻപാടില്ലാത്ത ഒന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ ആദ്യകാലത്തു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണത്തിനായി ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതു കാലക്രമേണ കുറച്ചു് ഇപ്പോൾ ൫,൦൦൦ രൂപയാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരമായി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ കുറച്ചുതൽ സംഖ്യ ഇക്കാര്യം അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ അത്യാധികം സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. അധഃകൃതരുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാര്യത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും മറ്റും ഇന്ന് എന്തൊരു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനേയും കവച്ചുവെക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ കൊച്ചി ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണ പരിപാടികൾ നടത്തി കൊണ്ടുപോരുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ അധഃകൃതരിൽ അധികവും നിരക്ഷരക്ഷിതരാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവരുടെയിടയിൽ നിർബന്ധവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ഏല്പിട്ടുത്തണമെന്ന് എനിക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരപേക്ഷയുണ്ട്. കോളേജ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസാർവ്വത്വം ഇന്ന് അധഃകൃതരിൽനിന്നും മറ്റു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കാണ് ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ നല്കിവരുന്നത്. ൫ ഉറപ്പികയാണ് അവർക്കു ഏല്പിൻ കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നത്. അതുപോലെ ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയൽ സംബന്ധമായിട്ടും ൫ ഉറപ്പികയാണ് അനുവദിച്ചുകാണുന്നത്. അധഃകൃതരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തേക്കാൾ സാഹിത്യവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്നാണ് പ്രാധാന്യം കല്പിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നുള്ള തത്വം ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇൻഡസ്ട്രിയൽ സംബന്ധമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം അധഃകൃതർക്കു ജനസിദ്ധമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. സാഹിത്യപരമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമാണ് അവർക്കു അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അവർ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രാതിനിധ്യമില്ലാത്തവരെന്നുള്ള കാരണത്തിനേൽ അവരെ ഒരിക്കലും ഉപേക്ഷിക്കരുത്. അവരുടെയിടയിൽ ഇത്രയും അധഃപതനമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതിന്നു കാരണം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമില്ലാത്തവർ അധികമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് സാഹിത്യവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്നു പ്രാധാന്യം നല്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്.

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

ഇനി റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എനിക്കു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാൻണ്ട്. അന്യരുടെ അടിമകളായി, കിടക്കുവാൻപോലും കിടപ്പിടമില്ലാതെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്ന അധഃകൃതർക്കു പുറമ്പോക്കു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ സംരക്ഷണവകുപ്പും റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പും പിടിയും വലിയും തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അധഃകൃതർക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു ധാരാളം സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ എല്ലാവകുപ്പുജ്ഞാതരും അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണവകുപ്പും അധഃകൃതരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ എല്ലായ്പ്പോഴും സഹായമായിരിക്കണമെന്നു കൂടി ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ.) സംരക്ഷണവകുപ്പിൽ ഒരു ലേബർ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി കറേക്കുടി പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അധഃകൃതവകുപ്പിനെ ഇങ്ങിനെ ലേബർ വകുപ്പാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതു വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരായും മറ്റും കറേ ആളുകൾ അതിൽ കടന്നുകൂട്ടുവാനായിട്ടു മാത്രമാണ്. റവന്യൂ-ടെസ്റ്റ് പാസായിട്ടുള്ള കാരണത്തിന്മേലാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ലേബർ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിന്റെ അനുമതികൂടാതെ അവർ അധഃകൃതർക്കു പുറമ്പോക്കു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാറുണ്ട്. റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിലെ ട്ലൈച്ചും പ്ലാനും ഒന്നും നോക്കാതെയാണ് അവർ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതുകൂടാതെ സംരക്ഷണവകുപ്പിൽനിന്നു് അനവധി അധഃകൃതരെ പുറമ്പോക്കു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കയറ്റി താമസിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെ താമസിച്ചവരുടെ വരവെ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റുകാർ കടിച്ചിറക്കിവിടുന്നുമുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മേലാലേങ്കിലും ഇങ്ങിനെ അവരെ കയറ്റി താമസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇറക്കിക്കളയുന്നതിനും ഇടയാക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം ഉണ്ടാകരുതെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

അടുത്തതായി കൃഷിവകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ കഷ്ടകന്മാർ അധികവും അധഃകൃതരാണ്. എന്നാൽ അവർക്കു ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നു കൃഷിസംബന്ധമായ യാതൊരു പ്രോത്സാഹനങ്ങളും നൽകിവരുന്നില്ല. അവരിൽ ഏതാനും ആളുകൾ ഇവിടത്തെ ജന്മികളുടെ അടിമകളായി കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നവരായിരിക്കാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് അധഃകൃതർക്കു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസംബന്ധമായ സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെതന്നെ കൃഷിസംബന്ധമായും കൂടുതൽ സഹായങ്ങൾ (ടെയിനിംഗ്) നൽകുന്നപക്ഷം അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ശാസ്ത്രീയമായ രീതിയിൽ കൃഷിചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഒരു വാക്കു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ട്. അധഃകൃതർ അധികവും മദ്യപാനികളാണ്. മദ്യപാനം നിരത്തൽ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു വലിയ വിഷമമുള്ള കാര്യമാണെന്നു് എനിക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ അധഃകൃതരിൽ സ്ത്രീകളും കുട്ടികളും ധാരാളമായി മദ്യപാനം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു സമ്പ്രദായം കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കും കുട്ടികൾക്കും മദ്യം കൊടുക്കരുതെന്നു നിയമമുള്ളതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. എന്നാൽ അധഃകൃതസമുദായത്തിലുള്ള സ്ത്രീകൾക്കും കുട്ടികൾക്കും മദ്യം കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് എനിക്കു മാത്രമല്ല ഇവിടെയുള്ള എല്ലാസാമാജികന്മാർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ള സ്ത്രീകളോടും കുട്ടികളോടും മദ്യം ഉപയോഗിക്കരുതെന്നു പറയാമെന്നല്ലാതെ കള്ളപ്പാപ്പകളിൽ പോയി മദ്യം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്നു വിലക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കു സാധിക്കയില്ല. ഈ എപ്പാഴു നിറത്തുവാൻ വേണ്ടി അധഃകൃതരുടെ സ്ത്രീകളും കുട്ടികളും മദ്യം ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതു് ശിക്ഷാർഹമാണെന്നു് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും നിയമം മൂലം അവർക്കു കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്.

ഇനി പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ചരയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട പോലീസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകൾ ഇവിടെ പുതുതായിവന്ന തിരു രേഷം അദ്ദേഹം അധഃകൃതരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. എന്നാൽ പഴയ സമ്പ്രദായത്തിൽതന്നെ ചില കുഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴും അധഃകൃതമട്ട്നം ഒരു പകർപ്പുവായിയായി തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ഒരു സമ്പ്രദായം ആത്മാർത്ഥമായും മനുഷ്യവുമായും തടയുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാർ പലതും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോഴും പഴയ നിലയിൽതന്നെ കുഗ്രാമങ്ങളിൽ മട്ട്നങ്ങൾ നടന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അതിനെ മാറ്റേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പുലയക്കു് പ്രത്യേകപ്രാതിനിധ്യം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ൮൨,൦൦൦ തോളം വരുന്ന പുലയക്കു് ൪ ശതമാനം ഉദ്യോഗം ലഭിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു തൃപ്തികരംതന്നെ. എന്നാൽ മറ്റു വിഭാഗങ്ങളിലും അധഃകൃതർ ധാരാളമുണ്ടു്. അവരെ ബാക്കു് വേർഡു് എന്ന നിലയിലാണു് ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അവരിൽ കുറെപ്പേർ ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടാതെയു മരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഡിപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടർ പറയുന്നതായ കൂട്ടക്കു് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ഇവക്കും ഒരു പ്രത്യേകനിലയിൽ ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് എനിക്കു യാതൊരു വിരോധവുമില്ല. ഈ സംഗതികൂടി സ്റ്റാഫു് സിലക്ടൻബോർഡിലെ നിയമത്തിൽ ചേർക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. സ്റ്റാഫു് സിലക്ടൻബോർഡിലെ നിയമത്തിൽ ഒരു കാര്യം ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വലിയ അപകടമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽനിന്നും തീപായി, മാസപ്പടി മുതലായ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കാണ് അധികവും അപേക്ഷിക്കുക. മുമ്പു വലിയ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ കൈകടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്ന മാതിരിതന്നെ ധാരാളമായി അവരുടെ ആളുകൾക്കും സേവകർക്കും ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുത്തുവരുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതിനൊരു പരിഹാരം വരുത്തേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും ആവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അധഃകൃതക്കു് കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ മുൻഗണന നൽകണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്നലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു് റെസിഡൻസി നടുത്തിയ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു മെമ്പർ അധഃകൃതരെക്കുറിച്ച് മറ്റുള്ളവക്കു് ഒരു ചെറിയ അവിശ്വാസം ജനിപ്പിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ചില പ്രസ്താവനകൾ ചെയ്തുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. പക്ഷെ അദ്ദേഹം അധഃകൃതരെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നല്ലപോലെ പഠിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നു് എനിക്കു പറയാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഞാൻ സെൻസ്സസ്കരോടു് ഒത്തു നിന്നുകൊണ്ടു പുലയരുടെ ജനസംഖ്യ അധികം ഉണ്ടാക്കിയെന്നും അതു മറ്റുള്ള അധഃകൃതക്കു് ഭോഷകരമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും വ്യാഖ്യാനിച്ചു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെയൊന്നുംതന്നെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തിത്തൊള്ളായിരം അധഃകൃതരുള്ളതിൽ ൮൨,൦൦൦ പേരും പുലയരാണ്. പുലയസമുദായത്തിന്റെ അപേക്ഷപ്രകാരമാണു് അവക്കു് ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽ പ്രത്യേകപ്രാതിനിധ്യം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതെങ്കിലും ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു നല്ലപോലെ വീക്ഷണം ചെയ്തറിന്നു രേഷമാണു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. പുലയക്കു് കൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെതന്നെ മറ്റുള്ളവക്കും ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്നു് എന്തെങ്കിലും വ്യവസ്ഥയുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ എപ്പോഴും വാദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മേലാലേങ്കിലും ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ പരമാർത്ഥം അറിഞ്ഞു പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും, (ഹിയർ, ഹിയർ) എന്റെ ഈ നിവേദനങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു സ്വീകരിച്ചു് അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തി

ത്തരമെന്നു ആശങ്കകയും ചെയ്യുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (Mattancheri): Mr. President, Sir, in these days of terrible trade depression when Governments find it too hard to keep themselves on sound financial basis, I congratulate the Government for presenting a substantial surplus budget for the third year in succession. Though certain items of expenditure compared with our limited resources may be viewed as enormous one can positively see the effect of a wise economy adopted in the preparation of the budget. Some of the special features of this year's budget are the provision that the Government have so generously made for the proper function of the departments under control of our popular Minister. Not only we, the members of this Hon'ble House but the entire population of the State, are fully confident about your anxiety to make the New Constitution a complete success. A perusal of your brilliant speech, Sir, will convince even our worst critics how earnest you are, as the head of the administration, to advance the welfare of the people and progress of the State, whom Providence has kept in your care.

Sir, the idea of shifting the godowns from Mattancheri to the Willingdon Island, has really created a great stir in the minds of the mercantile community there. My hon'ble friends are aware of the peculiar position of Mattancheri and what a prominent part she plays in the business of the State. Mattancheri is the commercial centre of the State and as such it should be the prime duty of the Government to improve her conditions by all means, instead of ruining an ancient commercial emporium to serve the new scheme. I am sure the land-holders of the place will co-operate with the Government and the Municipality to make the necessary improvements in godowns so that they may be made rat-proof. Both the European and Indian Chambers of Commerce, have protested against this scheme and I am sure Government will consider the same once more before they make up their final decision. Merchants will also experience a lot of inconveniences as regards the proposed idea of issuing licenses from the Municipality.

I would urge on the Government, Sir, to devote more attention to the improvement of industry of our State. Government can find sufficient avenue for their revenue, if they only develop some of our industries. Instead of following the old orthodox methods, it should be the desire of the Government to find out some novel schemes which will raise the financial status of the State and her people. In this connection, permit me, Sir, to speak a word about the coir industry of the State. Coir manufacturing is a very important industry in Kerala and a large number of people live on that. There is enough scope in our State to develop this into a first class

industry. Government should show a little more sympathy in this and give their active co-operation for its success. By organising a sales depot and appointing a marketing officer, Government can help the people immensely.

Sir, the merchants of Mattancheri are put into great inconvenience with regard to the question of income-tax. The hon'ble members of this House will please know that one-third of our income from income-tax is from Mattancheri. In attending the Income-tax Offices at Ernakulam with their numerous records, off and on, merchants experience too much difficulty and troubles. If the Government can kindly direct the Income-tax Officer once a week or so, to visit Mattancheri, it will indeed save our merchants a good deal from their present trouble. He can locate his temporary offices in any one of the Government buildings without incurring any additional expenses, to the Government. Many of the merchants in our State suffer heavily under the system of double tax. Those merchants in our State who have business interests in Travancore are at present compelled to pay income-tax in both the places. I would request the Government to come to an understanding with the Travancore Government like British India and save your people from additional burden.

Now, Sir, speaking a word for my community, whose interests, I am expected to represent in this Hon'ble House, I have to draw the attention of the Government to the deplorable condition of our students. They were enjoying certain privileges in the shape of stipends etc., for their education which the Government have cruelly withdrawn now. My community is much backward in education and as such it should be the deliberate desire of the Government to give them all kinds of push in order to bring them to the fore-front. Instead, the Government have dealt a terrible blow on their education. After all what have the Government saved by this, I ask? Only a couple of thousand rupees. A Government, which can find funds in thousands to spend for luxuries, find it too frugal to spend a very small sum for a good cause. It is really regrettable, Sir. May I hope the Government will reconsider their steps before it is too late. Times without number I have drawn the attention of the Government to the question of Arabic education in the State. Our students suffer a lot for a want of proper facilities for the same. In our College there is no proper arrangement to impart Arabic education to our students. Those who take Arabic up to School Final find it difficult to continue in College classes. By appointing an Arabic Instructor—a full-time worker—the Government can help our people a good deal.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that our popular Diwan is a staunch believer in communal justice. May I draw the attention of the Government, Sir, to the fact that my people do not get their proper share in public service and their representation in the higher ranks of the Government is very meagre. I am sure, Sir, the Government will bestow their sympathetic attention to this fact.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*): Mr. President, Sir, the budget estimates before us show an improvement in two respects from the previous two or three years. During the last two or three years, we have had the unfortunate experience of beginning every year with a surplus and ending the same invariably with a deficit. But this year, we have improved and the Government deserves congratulation on that account. I am also glad that a sum of one lakh of rupees has been allotted as an additional grant for rural development works. But in the matter of spending that amount, separate allotments have been already made to the different departments and the Hon'ble Minister is having consultations with the different Panchayats for spending a sum of Rs. 27,500 for concentration works. If this one lakh is over and above the ordinary grants, I fail to understand why the Hon'ble Minister did not think it necessary to hold these consultations with the whole of this amount in his hands. The procedure now adopted appears to me to be nothing but a process of shifting the burden of the judicious spending of an inadequate fund down to the heads of the people. With Rs. 5,000 the Panchayats are asked to devise ways and means of spending that amount in such a way that the capital is multiplied to such an extent within the shortest possible period, so that the whole villages could be improved to a substantial degree. Probably the difficulty and if I may say so, the utter impossibility of the problem has induced the Hon'ble Minister to shift on the burden to the heads of the people. I may inform the Government that unless a comprehensive scheme is prepared and allotments covering over a period of years is made for the purpose, all these attempts are bound to result in a waste.

In dealing with the budget estimates for 1115, I shall confine my attention principally to the nation building departments of the State, for it is only by an examination of the figures relating to these departments, that we can properly gauge the progress or otherwise that the State has made during the last decade. The Diwan President, in his opening speech, said that if you study the figures of expenditure on the nation building departments, you will find that while in 1105 the expenditure was 20.71 lakhs, in 1115 it has mounted up to Rs. 32.64 lakhs. Figures cannot lie, but then in examining the figures we should be careful to see whether taking the figures of certain years in a haphazard manner, we would be getting at the correct

picture. Instead of the figures of 1105, I will take the figures of 1106 and then show you that there is not much of an increase of expenditure during the last decade, sufficient to convince anybody that we are progressing satisfactorily. Since for purposes of calculation we are practically in the year 1115, a decade back from 1115 will take us only to 1106. It is necessary to clarify, to define in this connection what all departments we should take to be the nation-building departments, for though there may not be much room for difference of opinion in this respect, still since we are dealing with figures, we should have definite ideas about the items we deal with. I have, in my calculations, taken Agriculture, Co-operation, Panchayats, Education, Medical, Vaccination, Sanitation and Conservancy, Uplift of the Depressed Classes, Ayurveda and Industries as the development departments of the State.

The total expenditure of the State in 1106 is Rs. 84,74,100 and the expenditure for these departments Rs. 25,20,100. The total expenditure of the State in 1115 is Rs. 1,02,87,700 out of which we have budgetted for Rs. 33,12,600 for these departments. Calculating these provisions per cent, we find that while in 1106 we spent 29.9 per cent of the total expenditure for nation building departments, in 1115 we propose to spend 32.3 per cent. There is, no doubt, an increase of 2.4 per cent. In this calculation, we have also included the special grant of one lakh for rural development. If we don't include it the percentage will work out to 29.9 and 31.3. Is this increase, I ask the hon'ble members, any increase over which we can gloat over, especially when we find that the percentage of money that we are still spending on the non-development departments comes to 67.7 per cent?

Let us now consider the actual amount that we spent in 1106 for these departments, and compare the same with what we propose to spend in 1115. In the coming year we have budgetted for an expenditure of Rs. 7,92,500 more than the amount that we spend in 1106. If we examine this increase in greater detail, we find that out of this increased provision very little more is spent for purposes directly benefiting the public at large. Out of this increase of very nearly eight lakhs, Education itself contributes 4,53,700, which will be more than half. I don't say for a moment that this increase in the expenditure for education is unnecessary, but the House will bear in mind that this increase in a department where there is a colossal army of teachers enjoying graded pay, is only natural and nothing out of the way. Besides, if we examine the figures in detail, we find further that out of this increase the one college in the State has contributed Rs. 45,076 and Direction and Inspection Rs. 24,249.

So, that is the position with regard to education. Let us then examine the figure relating to the other departments and see whether

there is any appreciable increase in expenditure and if there is, what portion of it affects the public at large beneficially. In a State where the major portion of the population is engaged in agriculture and a considerable portion of the tax comes out of the land, I hope the House will agree with me when I say that agriculture should be classified as one of the most important of the development departments, that has to be very liberally provided for. But the figures relating to the department present a very pitiable picture. Excepting the improvements effected in the matter of veterinary aid and the consequent increase of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 13,282 for that purpose, there has not been any progress made in this department during the last decade. If we compare the several heads of expenditure in this department in 1106 with corresponding heads in 1115, we find that considerable savings have been effected in the Farm establishment, Office establishments, Maintenance of Gardens, Coconut Station and Avenues, but these savings have not been utilised for purposes agricultural. It is really disheartening that in spite of the various criticisms against this department, both inside and outside this Council, during the last one decade, the Government have not thought it necessary either to mend it or end it. Since it may be out of place, on an occasion like this, when we are discussing the budget estimates in a general way, to speak at great length on this subject, I do not propose to do so now. I can only appeal to the good sense of the Government to appreciate the extreme urgency of effecting certain improvements in this department with a view to improving the lot of the ryot from whom the Government are collecting a tax of nearly twelve lakhs of rupees. I am thankful to the Hon'ble Member for Kattur for having drawn the attention of the Government to this important question and by hinting at certain aspects of the problem such as irrigation facilities and the like. It is wrong on the part of the Government to refuse to spend any money for such purposes unless they are sure of an immediate return for the capital necessary. Expenditure proposed for such purposes should not be looked at from that point of view.

Another important department in the development activities of the State is the Public Health Department. In 1106 the work that is being done by this department was apportioned between the Agricultural and the Medical Departments and it is only in 1109 that a new department was constituted for the protection of the public health of our population. In 1109 this new department spent 1.18 lakhs of rupees, whereas the proposed allotment for this department in 1115 including the Rs. 5,000 special grant comes to Rs. 1.50 lakhs, thus showing an increase of only .32 lakhs during the last seven years. It is also noteworthy to remember that it is during

this period that the pay of the head of the department was revised and raised to Rs. 800. If we take the different items of expenditure in this department, we will find again that the increase in the portion of the money spent which directly touches the health of the people is very small. Whereas in 1106 we find Rs. 58,000 utilised for State General Sanitation Works, in 1115, we propose to spend only Rs. 32,203. Establishment charges including allowances and contingencies account for an increase of Rs. 53,096, and contributions to municipalities constitute Rs. 5,000.

Taking the Panchayat Department, which is also a very important section of the nation building activities of the Government, we find an increase of Rs. 6,810 in the Establishment charges and Rs. 5,317 in furniture, cleaning and rent, whereas for irrigation, communication and water supply we find a decrease of Rs. 18,568, Rs. 44,900 and Rs. 29,443 respectively. For Sanitation and Conservancy, however, there is an increase of Rs. 7,090.

In the Medical Department there is an increase of Rs. 62,000 and in Ayurveda Rs. 31,372. Taking the total expenditure for the Agriculture, Panchayat, Medical and Public Health, we find there is an increase of nearly two lakhs of rupees from the provisions in 1106. The separation of the Panchayat Department from Agriculture and the constitution of the new department of Public Health account for a considerable portion of this increase in expenditure. For the Department of the Uplift of the Depressed Classes, whereas we spent Rs. 1,09,500 in 1106, we spend only Rs. 70,500 now.

Thus we find that the total increase of nearly eight lakhs from 1106 to 1115, is not at all an increase which would contribute really to the prosperity of the people at large. We are comparing the figures of a decade and therefore, I believe, there is nothing for us to be complascent about, there is nothing out of the ordinary. During these years, our income has also increased especially our income from these departments themselves which comes in 1115 to about a lakh more than what it was in 1106. The test, therefore, that would lead us to a conclusion as to how far we have progressed in our nation building activities is to compare percentages of our expenditure in this direction on the total revenue of the State. Whereas in 1106 we spent 29 per cent of our revenue for these departments, what do we spend now? Only 30 per cent. We have now two new departments, Public Health and Industries, and the over head charges incidental to the separation of these departments constitute a greater portion of this increase in the provisions. This increase of one and odd per cent includes the one lakh special contribution made to these departments this year. Again, for this increase of one per cent, we have had a corresponding increase of about one lakh on the revenue side from these departments. In view of all these circumstances, is this increase an increase at all worthy of special mention?

The Hon'ble House will judge from the figures, how far we have progressed in this direction.

I should think, a word in regard to the burden of taxation will not be out of place here. My friend, the hon'ble member for Cranganur, dealt with this aspect of the matter yesterday and I don't wish to reiterate the various items of revenue which are in reality to be classified as taxes, but which have not been taken into account by the Diwan-President in his Opening Address. Tax duty, cess or fees, by whatever name you call it, the revenue of the State excepting profits from capital outlay and interest, come from the people rich and poor, for it is by the contributions received from the people, whether voluntary or otherwise, that a State meets its expenditure. The revenues of our State comes to 107 lakhs and deducting a margin of seven lakhs for income from profitable undertakings, we can see that the balance of 100 lakhs really touches the pockets of the people. The population of our State at the last Census is roughly 12 lakhs and the burden of tax would therefore come to eight and odd rupees per head of the population. Take the sister State of Travancore. Though exact figures are not available, the income of that State is somewhere near 250 lakhs and the population about 60 lakhs, the burden per head being four and odd or just half of the burden on us. The calculation is not based on exact figures, but I believe it is sufficient to convince this hon'ble House that the burden of sacrifice that we are called upon to make towards the administration of the State, is not less than that of the people of Travancore.

*മിസ്റ്റർ എൻ. വി. സുബ്ബരായൻ ചെട്ടിയാർ : മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ടു്, സർ, കൊച്ചിയിൽ അൻപതിനായിരത്തോളം വരുന്ന തമിഴ് അബ്രാഹ്മണ സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്ന നിലയിൽ ആ സമുദായങ്ങളോടു നീതി കാണിക്കുന്ന ദിവാൻജിയവർകളെ ഞാൻ ഒന്നാമതായി അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. വരുന്ന കൊല്ലത്തേക്കുള്ള ബഡ്ജറ്റപ്രകാരം അഞ്ചുലക്ഷത്തിപ്പത്തൊന്നു രൂപയുടെ മിച്ചമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനേയും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു ഫിനാൻസ് മെമ്പർ അവർകളേയും അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

തമിഴ് അബ്രാഹ്മണർക്കു നിയമസഭയിലും പ്രത്യേകപ്രാതിനിധ്യം അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും പിന്നണിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്നവരും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു സർവ്വീസിൽ കൂടുതൽ അപ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്നവരായ തമിഴ് അബ്രാഹ്മണസമുദായത്തെ സ്റ്റാഫ് സിലക്ഷൻ ബോർഡിൽ ബാങ്ക് വേർഡ് അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഡിപ്രസ്ഡ് എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൂട്ടി ൫൪ സമുദായങ്ങളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ മുൻപുപോലെയുള്ള പരിക്ഷാവിജയികളായി വരുന്ന തമിഴ് അബ്രാഹ്മണർക്കു അവരുടെ ജനസംഖ്യയനുസരിച്ചുള്ള വീതം കിട്ടുവാൻ വളരെ പ്രയാസമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് സ്റ്റാഫ് സിലക്ഷൻ

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

ബോർഡിലെ നിയമനവവസ്ഥകൾ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്ന സമയം തമിഴ് അബ്രാഹ്മണർ അവരുടെ ജനസംഖ്യയനുസരിച്ചു കിട്ടേണ്ടതായ ശതമാനം അവർക്കു കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം പ്രത്യേകം വ്യവസ്ഥപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

നീർവാരം കൂടി കൊടുത്തുവരുന്ന ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ജലദൗർലഭ്യം മൂലം വളരെ കഷ്ടത നേരിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനതന്നെ നല്ലപോലെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണല്ലോ. കൃഷിക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള വെള്ളം സുലഭമായി കിട്ടുവാൻ ഇറിഗേഷൻ സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫ് കൂടുതലായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കയാൽ ഞാൻ ആ വിഷയത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക ശ്രദ്ധയെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുകയും, ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കൂടുതൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കണമെന്നു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

മലമ്പനി ധാരാളമുള്ള നല്ലേപ്പിള്ളിയിൽ വൈദ്യസഹായത്തിനു് ൧൧൧൨-ൽ ൫൦൦ ഉറപ്പിക നീക്കിവെക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉത്തരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും പിന്നീടു് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് അക്കാര്യം വിസ്മരിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഒരു ആയുർവ്വേദവൈദ്യശാലയെങ്കിലും സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നല്ലേപ്പിള്ളി നിവാസികളുടെ സങ്കടത്തിനു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കിത്തരാനായി പ്രത്യേക അപേക്ഷിക്കുകയും, ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരമെന്നു് ആശിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

നല്ലേപ്പിള്ളി പഞ്ചായത്തിലെ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായ ഒന്നാണു കമ്പളിപ്പുക്കം—ആലുകുടവറോഡ്. ആ റോഡിനെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി അവർകൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ നാലു മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു സന്ദർശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും ആ റോഡു് നന്നാക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണു്. എന്നിട്ടും ആ റോഡിന്റെ പണിക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള പണം ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊടുച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടാത്തതിനാൽ ഞാൻ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. ഗ്രാമോദ്ധാരണത്തിനായി ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽനിന്നു് ഈ റോഡിനാവശ്യമായ പണം ചിലവഴിച്ചു പ്രസ്തുത റോഡ് ഉപയോഗപ്രദമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേക അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ചിററൂരിൽനിന്നും വൈദ്യതീകരണംകൊണ്ടു നല്ലേപ്പിള്ളിയെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുവാൻ വളരെ സെക്ഷൻമുള്ളതാണു്. അതിലേക്കു പ്രാരംഭമായി നവണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും കുറെ സംഖ്യ ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നിരുന്നാലും ആ പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നപക്ഷം വലിയൊരു ആദായം അതിൽ നിന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്കു കിട്ടുവാനിടയുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു നല്ലേപ്പിള്ളി ഗ്രാമത്തെയും വൈദ്യതീകരണത്താൽ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കണമെന്നു് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊണ്ടും മേലുദ്ധരിച്ച സംഗതികളിൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഗാഢമായി പതിഞ്ഞുകാണുമെന്നുള്ള പ്രത്യാശയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം ഉപസംഹരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The House rose for lunch at 1 P. M. and reassembled at 2-30 P. M. with the Hon'ble Deputy President in the Chair.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): Sir, It is now one year since the introduction of this reform and practically for the whole of this period I have been responsible to this House in conducting the various departments entrusted to my care. It would be in the fitness of things that I should give a brief account of the

working of these departments and the changes that we propose to introduce as a matter of policy. When I entered into the precincts of that mysterious building, the Secretariat, I was more or less frightened and I was anxious how I would accommodate myself among those strange beings, but I found on intimate relations with them that the same feelings, the same emotions and the same desire to serve the public interest animate those who live and work under the roof of that building. At the start the only ray of hope for me was that I was given as Secretary an old and valued friend of mine Mr. George who undertook the task of enlightening me with his advice. His loyal co-operation and the rich experience he has earned for more than a quarter of a century in various fields of administration were placed unreservedly at my disposal. I was able to discharge that portion of the work more or less satisfactorily because we were assisted by a loyal staff who made no difference between one part of the Government and the other. With their help and co-operation this work has been done, at least to my mind, to some satisfaction and as I shall show as I proceed further, in the field of administration at least there has been a decided improvement. I shall be failing in my duty to this House and to the public of the State, if I do not avail myself of this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to the Diwan for the unfailing courtesy and the advice he gave, if and when I wanted. There has never been an occasion when that advice was not forthcoming, and this co-operation and help enabled me to run the administration and to discharge my duties to my satisfaction to some extent at least. Various cut motions have been tabled and I have been honoured with my due share of these cut motions. I would have been very anxious if no cut motions were placed, for the democratic institution requires constant opposition. It will not thrive unless there is constant irritation and constant pressure applied to it. I will feel only anxious if a spirit of indifference pervades among the members of this House with regard to the transferred departments. The greater the criticism and the more vigorous it is, the greater shall I be pleased; for I am in a position to meet these criticisms and something tells me that the members who place the motion will withdraw them, when they understand the position. Therefore, I am very much honoured by the large number of motions that have been tabled against my department and I hope that as they come up in order, I would be in a position to meet all the criticisms in a friendly spirit and I hope that I will be able to convince the House that under the existing conditions and restrictions I have done the best that one could expect. I shall with your leave, Sir, only deal with the general aspects of the various departments leaving important and vital points to be discussed in answering the various motions that hon'ble members propose to bring forward.

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In the Department of Public Health there is only one vital change that is proposed to be introduced and it has been explained by the Diwan in his opening speech. As the House is aware, there are four Health Centres in this State which together cost the State more than 10,000 rupees a year. Now, these four Health Centres have been in existence for a period of more than 6 or 7 years and when we analysed the results derived from these institutions, we came to the irresistible conclusion, as I shall be able to prove if a motion with regard to this is placed in this House, that these four Health Centres have failed to realise the objects and the purposes for which they were introduced in this State. I have always held that it is very unfair and unjust to criticise any new institution because it is a failure. I say it is not proper to offer carping criticisms because a new innovation, the introduction of a new method, ended in failure. But I also hold equally strongly that once the failure has been proved conclusively, it will be a criminal folly to continue the same and the Government, of course, with the concurrence of this House for I shall be very happy if an occasion arises to take a vote of this House on this question, have decided to abolish these centres. Of the four centres, two will be abolished this year and the remaining two centres will be abolished next year and the money saved from this will be utilised in employing a small army of midwives all over the State. The intention is to supply at least one midwife to each Panchayat, although the hon'ble member for Chittur Rural wanted a midwife for each village which had a population of 500 or more. But I am sorry that we are not now in a position to realise that great ambition. As you know there are 83 Panchayats and gradually we expect to increase the number of these midwives so that in any part of this State, when women go through the terrible ordeal and pangs of child birth, the help of the State will be extended to them as far as possible, consistent with its financial position.

The other important changes that we propose to introduce in the Public Health Department is the reorganisation of the Ayurvedic Department. There is difference of opinion, and discussion is going on as to the comparative merits of the various systems of medicine. But you may take it, gentlemen, from me as the result of the experience that I have gathered in this line that all systems of medicine have got their good points as well as their weak ones. It is folly to say that one system is useless because one is not trained in that system, and as a result one is not in a position to understand and appreciate that system, and to sit in judgment and criticise a system under such conditions is a proposition to which I will not subscribe. In all the different methods of treatment there are good points and weak points and in cases where the Allopathic system has failed disastrously, the Ayurvedic system has succeeded and vice

versa. But the fact remains that our people have got in a way at least much trust and place as much reliance upon the Ayurvedic system as they do in the Allopathic system. Therefore, it is proposed that the Ayurvedic system should be encouraged and extended as far as possible all over the State. But where is the money to come from? It is proposed again to start manufacturing medicines on large scale on a scientific basis and we expect, if things progress as we anticipate, to get a net profit of not less ten thousand rupees a year from the sale of medicine alone. Measures have already been taken to introduce the necessary machinery to manufacture these medicines and the construction of buildings will be started early next year and within three or four months after this financial year, we expect we will be in a position to manufacture medicines on a large scale. You will see an amount 7,500 rupees there and that amount is intended for the building and Rs. 10,000 more I expect the Government would be in a position to advance either as a grant or loan for the purchase of machinery. I don't exactly know how much money we may require, but this is only a modest calculation and, I believe, that with this initial expenditure we will be able to start the manufacture of Ayurvedic preparations. These are the only two alterations that we propose to effect in this department.

With regard to the Panchayats, I have been watching the discussion and I have heard complaints about the insufficiency of water supply. As adequate an amount as is possible and as we can safely set apart for water works, has been reserved, as you will see from the budget. A very large amount has been reserved for water supply and it is our intention to dig up additional wells almost in all the Panchayats. You will also notice that in the matter of communications the amount proposed to be ear-marked for that department has not been very encouraging. I want the House to understand that year by year as we increase the mileage of roads, the amounts necessary for keeping those roads in good repair are gradually increasing and we have reached a point at which it would be very difficult to go on constructing further roads unless additional amount is forthcoming. But, all the same, we have reserved a good amount for road construction also.

There has been constant complaint of the interference of the department in the Panchayat work. With regard to the interference in Panchayat administration there have been constant complaints and I have hinted at it some time ago. It is the intention of the Government to enlarge the powers of the Panchayats and a Bill will be introduced in this House and the hon'ble members will have a chance to study the Bill and in the light of the discussion that would follow the introduction of the Bill necessary alterations will be

effected. So far as I am personally concerned I shall be only very happy to place the Panchayats on a footing equal to that of the Municipalities.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas Kanayanur*): When will the Bill be introduced?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minster for Rural Development*): Perhaps in another two months. Most probably in next Vrischigam.

Either we will have to go backward or we will have to move forward. These Panchayat institutions are at present neither fish nor flesh. Here is a situation where the Government has not got the necessary control and the Panchayat has not got the necessary independence. Either give them independence or take away whatever independence they have in the name of efficiency. I believe the proper course for us to pursue is to extend their power. Give them power of taxation. The Panchayat will have to levy tax to carry on their work. This is more or less the main principle of the Bill. But I do not want to enter into details which will be placed before you in the near future.

Sir, I have been listening to various criticisms against the Agricultural Department. As the House knows, I myself have been a critic of this department in the past. I can quite understand the feeling of irritation that the House generally has towards this department, for the expectations formed by this House and by the public of this department may not have been completely realised. Curiously enough there was criticism for over-spending and at the same time not spending enough money for the Department of Agriculture. What I did was to enforce economy as much as possible. There is a cut motion, I believe, standing in the name of my friend, Mr. Bhaskara Menon about the reduction of gardeners. I can understand his standpoint and I quite sympathise with him. I may assure the House that measures have been already taken to see that these gardeners are provided for in the various departments and Government will see that only after they are absorbed in the various departments fresh hands will be taken. In various other ways I have tried my level best to keep the expenditure down in the Department of Agriculture and when we deal with that department you will see that on the whole there is a slight improvement in the financial position of the department. We have also introduced a number of Demonstration Centres and entrusted this work to Schoolmasters who have been specially trained in the agricultural centre. We are also considering the establishment of Manure Depots in various Panchayats. I hope that we will be in a position to take more active interest next year and I believe that it

would be wise for the House to watch the progress of that department for another year before they propose to take any radical action with regard to it.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: എന്തെങ്കിലും കൃഷിക്കാർ ഈ ഡെമോൺസ്ട്രേഷൻ അനുസരിച്ചു കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നതായിട്ട് ഗവണ്മെന്റിനറിയാമോ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am told that some of them are doing it. My personal belief is that the old method of paddy raising is the best method. I do not think any of these scientific methods are equal to the old method of cow-dung and green leaves. That is my personal opinion. Take it for what it is worth.

Then the Veterinary Department comes under the Department of Agriculture. Half of the money saved from the reduction of gardeners is going to be devoted to develop the Veterinary Department. Yesterday my friend was asking "Are you not taking away food from the mouth of a few people to look after the animals"? I will put that in another way. Are not our obligations towards the dumb animals greater than our obligations to those who can at least give expression to their wants? But in any case it is essential that the Veterinary Department should be developed, and we have had requisitions from various Panchayats and resolutions of this House calling upon the Government to develop this Department. It is proposed to start many additional Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries as are existing today. I expect that this will contribute to some extent to safeguard the ryots' interest by giving advice and looking after their cattle.

Now I come to Industry and Commerce. With regard to the various criticisms that have been offered, especially by my friend Mr. Peter, I shall deal with briefly. I cannot understand the force of his argument. I assure him that the Rs. 3,000 is not lost. When I found that the money could not be used properly within the year, that money was transferred to next year's budget. What I want the House to realise is this. This coir industry is not a joke. It requires enormous capital and it requires the co-operation, the combined effort of a good number of people living upon this trade and also those who live upon the workers of this trade. We are thinking of starting a central place here wherein all these products will be collected and if possible will enter into some negotiation with any of these big firms for wholesale business. The main idea underlying the whole proposition is this. As far as possible, the middle man who knocks off more than his due share should not be allowed to take the lions' share of the profit of the work turned out by the poorest of the poor workers. That question is engaging the attention of the departmental Head, and I hope that we will be in a position to establish

such depots by the coming year. Similarly, we are going to deal with bamboo mats. The difficulty in all these things is not to organise manufacture, to get raw materials and to convert them into finished product, but it is to find out markets. The difficulty is to find out markets wherein we can sell these products on a large scale and we are trying to see how far we will succeed in getting markets to absorb our manufactured goods.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Will our Government be able to compete with European firms engaged in coir industry?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That is what I said. The difficulty regarding this industry is much greater than what we think. The more we go into this, greater the difficulties that arise. And most probably we may enter into negotiations with these European firms. Further, we have been doing as far as we can, everything to give all kinds of encouragement to weaving. Various grants and even financial help had been rendered to various centres and I am happy to note that at least in one or two centres this weaving industry is now thriving. The Government will take all possible measure to help and encourage this weaving industry to the best of its ability. We are happy to tackle this question again and we are also happy to render help to weavers in new areas. At the same time we have been encouraging the khadar industry and spinning and we have decided to give an increased grant. I understand that nearly 300 people are being employed by this institution and it is the duty of the Government to render all possible help to an institution which gives work to about 300 including women and even children. Therefore, we propose to give an increased grant to that institution and also another grant to get down experts to teach spinning and weaving and any further financial help as is consistent with the financial situation.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulanakunnathukavu*): Which is that institution?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The one in Avinisseri which is about 4 miles from Trichur.

I would like to say one or two words about co-operation. One great difficulty in this country is somehow or other we have not grasped the spirit of co-operation. Our people do not understand the fundamental principle of co-operation and the tendency is to co-operate together to swindle the society. Instead of co-operating with one another to raise the level of each and all, they somehow or other show a tendency to benefit themselves. The co-operative societies will not succeed unless and until there is a change of mentality. I believe that we are gradually witnessing that change of mentality at least among the coming generation. There is a spirit of service in

them and they are coming forward in large numbers to serve the people. We are giving all possible encouragement to establish co-operation not on the credit basis, because the credit basis of co-operation has done more harm than good, but on the basis of non-credit i. e., societies that deal with raw materials etc., and finished products. Co-operative institutions of this kind are, in my opinion, more useful to our country than these credit societies which create only trouble and a tendency to get the better of the other men. But the difficulty arises in that the people do not know the basis of co-operation or the meaning of co-operation. "Each for all and all for each" is the fundamental principle of co-operation. But do we understand and appreciate this principle, certainly not here. Therefore, those people who are in good financial position are averse to enter into the co-operative movement wherein the liabilities are unlimited. So long as the liabilities are unlimited for the failure of the society, sometimes one man alone will have to meet all the commitments of that society. I have in my mind an honest and public spirited servant of the Government who went into this society and joined it as a patriotic duty and later on he finds himself in the position of being deprived of nearly six to seven thousand rupees, the whole patrimony that he inherited from his ancestors. Because of his patriotic feeling he has been penalised in this way. Therefore, people are averse to come into co-operation on unlimited liability basis. Now if you make it limited liability it becomes a joint stock concern, i. e., each one is liable to his share. Then the principle of co-operation is lost. Therefore, how to get over this difficulty is the problem that faces us. The only way we could solve this problem is to strike a *via media*, that each member's liability must be restricted to three or five shares. These are the difficulties of co-operation.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): What is wrong in introducing co-operative society on the basis of joint stock concerns?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): The idea of co-operation is that each one must look after the interest of his fellows. When his liability is limited to his own share he ceases to have that interest in promoting the financial interests of his friends.

Now I wish to stress upon the Depressed Class section. There is no section which gives me so much anxiety and difficulty as the Department for the protection of these depressed classes. Various difficulties crop up and as years go by, these difficulties are found to increase. While it was possible to manage this department at the beginning much more easily than it is now, these difficulties are increasing and the demands made upon the department to meet the

requirements of this class are increasing. While there is great financial stringency to meet the bare necessities of this department, the claims upon the department by these people are increasing. Under these circumstances, Government have to face this problem and we have come to a provisional decision that whatever amount granted to this department should be so divided as to give a substantial portion to the real depressed classes as represented by my friend Mr. Vallon. In other words, the term Depressed Classes connotes a number of sub-sections. The proposal is to divide these into two, that is to say, those who have gone up a few steps in the ladder of civilisation and culture may be kept separate from those who are far below them in that ladder. In that classification we have included five or six, for example, Pulayas, Cherumas, Parayas, etc., and in the other half Viswakarmas, Perumannans, etc.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ:— അവരെ വിചിത്രമായി നോക്കിയാൽ അവരെ ചിലതേക്കു ഡിപ്രസ്ഡ് ആക്കിയതേയുള്ളൂ. അവരെ ഡിപ്രസ്ഡ് ക്ലാസ്സിൽപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതില്ല.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The amount is limited. Within that limited amount, in whatever way we could distribute, so far as I am concerned I am amenable to any suggestion coming from this House. I want you to study these figures, and if you can offer me any suggestions, I shall be willing to consider them. Only educational concessions are given to some of these classes and I understand that with regard to these Perumannans, this concession will be made to them for a period of six years. That period is not yet over. We are not going to reduce the items of concession but to reduce the number of recipients. We will have either to reduce the amount given or the number. That is the problem that we have to face and we have not yet been able to get a proper solution for our difficulties.

There is another cut motion about the Rural Development Centre. I shall reserve all the remarks that I have to make on that subject when Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty moves for the abolition of that department. I do not propose to say anything more on that. You are as much an expert about it as I am and I am as much an expert as you are. I have dealt with the general changes that we wish to introduce in certain of these departments and I have only to speak a few sentences about the general policy. For this work it is essential that there should be complete co-operation not only of the members of the Legislative Council but of the people themselves. I believe there is a general feeling gradually gaining ground in the minds of our people, especially of the educated young men, that it is their duty to co-operate with the Government and do the very best they can to realise the ambitions we have formed to these departments. I do not know to what extent we will succeed. The House must always realise the limited resources placed at the disposal of these

departments and a lakh of rupees distributed among 83 Panchayats means a thousand and odd rupees for every Panchayat. It is the failure to accept this hard fact that has induced the hon'ble members to come forward and say that an important road has not been undertaken here, that people have not been supplied with drinking water there, and that littoral tracts have been neglected—all very legitimate grievances but unfortunately grievances that could not be redressed for want of funds. I mean to say that it requires very much larger funds if you want to effect any real radical change in the existing state of affairs in the villages. The House certainly has a right to demand from me—whatever may be the difficulties with regard to the village reconstruction—how far I have succeeded or failed with regard to the administrative side. Has it been managed with efficiency, I am bound to show to this House whether I have succeeded or failed. I call upon the members of this House to go to any part they like and if they do not find an improvement in the tone of administration of the departments entrusted to my care, I request them to come and report the matter to me. In this administration I have my own difficulties and as occasions demanded, unfortunately pains had to be inflicted. But measures have been taken to relieve that pain as far as possible by removing the sting, consistent with the requirements of the situation. When a horse is let loose, galloping and ampling and when it is caught for the first time and the bridle is put into its mouth, it feels restive, it feels surprised, it feels rebellious, it feels aggrieved and it tries to rush with flashing eyes, with foaming mouth and tries to dislodge the rider. Then you apply the spur and a sensible horse, after some time, understands that this process of misdeeds followed by spurring is in the long run injurious to the animal itself. And such animals immediately change their tactics and these animals live to run races and win prizes and generally die in the stables. Such horses generally break their necks and they never win any prize in the races. But there are other types of animals who show their temper the moment you apply the spur and they become more vicious. They destroy themselves or the rider. Either the rider is killed or the animal is killed. And similarly there are men who never leave from past bitter experience, who always think that all others must yield to their selfishness and to their impertinent imperiousness. When a Government have to deal with different kind of people, these different varieties have to be taken into consideration, and a portion of the time which would have been devoted for better purposes, has to be devoted to tame these restive animals to proper subjection and subjugation. In spite of all the difficulties, this department is running more or less smoothly and the House may rest assured that without fear or favour, without consideration of personalities, the same discipline will be enacted from everyone of them so far as my departments are concerned.

The House shall never have a chance to say that partiality was shown in the matter of promotion or in the matter of treatment of the officials. Even cases disposed of 8 years ago have been reopened and justice has been done to the Government servants. So far as administration is concerned, I am doing the very best I can and I shall be happy to answer any criticism from this House. Beyond that, gentlemen, you cannot expect me to go. There are a number of cut motions tabled against my department. Criticise as much as you like, but don't take away the money given to me because you will be robbing the beggars. With regard to my department have as much criticism as you like and deal with me as harshly as you can. But don't take away the money that has been given to me by your cut motions.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): It is only one rupee.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Even that one rupee cannot be taken away from these departments. You can have hundred rupees worth of talk and criticism. Hammer as much as you like and you can have thousand rupees worth of criticism. I thank you for your patient hearing.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to make any lengthy reply to many of the points that have been raised in the course of the general discussion by the 20 hon'ble members who took part in the general discussion. Many of those points I find are covered by the 96 cut motions that are tabled so far as my department is concerned. There is no necessity to travel that ground now. But there is one point which I cannot leave unanswered now. It is a most uncharitable remark which should not have come and that especially from a lawyer member of this House. In the course of his speech the hon'ble member remarked that the Cochin judiciary as a class was lacking in independence. It was however refreshing for me to hear two other members taking a contrary view. I am not speaking as the Secretary of the Government. I have myself had long experience at the Bar and for some time I have been a judicial officer also. I can speak with authority that if Cochin can be proud of any department, I should say, it is the judicial department. I am only sorry that the hon'ble member who is himself a practising lawyer should have made such an uncharitable remark regarding the Cochin Judiciary. Now the reason that is given why the Cochin Judiciary is not independent is that the policy of transferring officers from the judicial department as Heads of other departments by the Government stands in the way of their exhibiting that independence.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (*Cranganur*): This is what I said in my speech 'As long as lower judiciary happens to be

absolutely underpaid and their only chance of promotion can be as Heads of Departments who are paid more, my submission to this House is that nobody can claim the judiciary to be independent.'

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): The member means that, whatever may be the sense in which he used it. Because they are underpaid they cannot afford to be independent. Even that statement, I question. Simply because a Magistrate gets a less pay than an Excise Commissioner or the Diwan Peishkar, it does not mean that the Magistrate is not independent. The same remark applies in the case of Munsiffs also. It will apply to all judicial officers.

Now the next argument that he advanced is that these judicial officers will always have an eye to be promoted as Heads of Departments getting higher pay. I may assure this House that whatever may be the policy that is followed by the Government in the matter of recruitment to its services—they may have to take officers from the judicial department also—that policy, I must state in this House, has never interfered with judicial independence. The Government have never interfered with judicial administration and if there is any department where the Government is not interfering, it is the judicial department. I really do not understand how a man ceases to be independent unless his work is interfered with by the Government. So far as promotion is concerned, from the Munsiff's place to a District Judge's place promotion is given by the Government. Promotion always is given by the Government. Does it mean that a Munsiff is not independent? Does it mean that a District Judge or an Additional Judge is not independent? If that is the meaning, then I say that this is a wrong remark and it should not have been made also. But if the hon'ble member says he views it only in the qualified form, I have nothing to say.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuavas-Talappalli*): It is a harmless statement.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): It is not a harmless statement. I cannot tolerate such statements.

Mr. Deputy President:—I cannot allow several hon'ble members to rise together to make clear the statement made by one member. The particular member has made his position clear, and if anything more is necessary he will be allowed to make a further explanation.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): I have to submit to the Chair that it is the right of the House to defend a member.

Mr. Deputy President:—The member is there to explain what he stated and the meaning of what he stated. If every one in

this House tries to explain what one hon'ble member stated that will be an extraordinary procedure throwing the whole House into confusion, and such a procedure I cannot allow.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): With due respect to the Chair, at least after the explanation should not the Chair ask the Secretary not to remark against it.

Mr. Deputy President:—That is a different matter altogether.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Is not the Government protesting too much?

Mr. Deputy President: That is a question different from the one raised by Mr. Ayyappan.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Can there be no interruption?

Mr. Deputy President: It is not merely a question of interruption.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Even in the Mother of Parliaments interruptions are heard.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): May I know without resorting to the form of explanation whether it is open to us to have relevant interruptions when the Government Secretary is speaking or when any member is speaking?

Mr. Deputy President: Order, Order. It is not the Chairs' function to answer hypothetical questions. When any question actually arises, then a ruling will be given. The Secretary to the Government may continue.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Now if the hon'ble member did not mean—I understood him to mean like that—if by his explanation he says he did not mean it, certainly I have no complaint.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): The hon'ble member Mr. Bhaskara Menon has read a ready made speech in the typed form in which it has been presented. Why does the Government Secretary assign a particular meaning to it? It will speak for itself.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): From the speech I find that the hon'ble member still doubts whether the judiciary is independent. I question that. I do maintain that the judiciary is independent.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Then why should the Government invite an apology from the hon'ble member?

Mr. Deputy President: The Government Secretary never invited an apology.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I was only speaking on the statement that was made by the hon'ble member. I never wanted any apology. In fact that was the only point on which I thought I should say a few words now with reference to the general remarks. With regard to the repeal of the Press Act, the removal of untouchability and many other things like that which have been touched upon, I think, I will take the opportunity when the several cut motions are taken up.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): I had great feelings of doubt whether a long speech was necessary at all from the person who is in charge of the Revenue Department. My doubts increased because I found that the general atmosphere is not such as would brook a speech without interruptions. Anyway, if the hon'ble members are agreed that a calmer atmosphere prevails, I would like to make some observations upon a few matters having special reference to my department. There was a reference to my previous speeches as well as to the previous speeches of the hon'ble members who used to refer to the activities of my department. There were four matters on which we are not agreed and upon which we are not likely to agree, even after these speeches have reaffirmed them a number of times. I am not disparaging the members. We have got definite stand points. They are reduction of land-tax which resolves into two—permanent reduction in land-tax, i. e., alter the basis of land-tax, and the temporary remission, claimed on rates ranging from 12½ to 25 per cent which is the maximum which the hon'ble member for Cheruthuruthi used to ask. The hon'ble gentleman, like the Baby in the Pears' Soap advertisement, will never be happy until he gets it.

We have had an interminable discussion upon it. That is one matter.

The second matter used to be fisheries, stakes, Harbour and everything. It has now reduced itself to prawns. Because that is the new tax that has come this year.

The third point was the second crop. I have been waiting through the debates yesterday and today to find out whether anybody would champion that lost cause and to my infinite joy, I find, it has been given up. There has been absolutely no reference to the second crop, in any speech on the general discussion or in the several cut motions tabled on the Revenue demand. There is absolutely no reference to the second crop. I am happy.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Are any number of cut motions of any use?

IV—9.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): I do not find any cut motions relating to this in the list.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): There is no use.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Anyway whether the antagonist took a dislike to me or whether he was really vanquished the second crop is off (*Laughter*). That is the patent fact.

The fourth and the last matter is relating to the Protector's Department and the depressed classes who encroach upon porambokes.

The second crop being away, there are 3 matters to be dealt with. These are land-tax reduction (a) temporary and (b) permanent, the prawns-tax which the hon'ble member for Cranganur says is the result of my ingenuity, and lastly the porambokes.

The Hon'ble Member for the Depressed Classes said that there is a perpetual warfare going on between the protection and the revenue departments. I shall be brief in my replies for this simple reason that we have talked as much as people fond of talking, talk on this question of land-tax. It will be an insult to the intelligence of the members of this House if I repeat those arguments; very rightly too the members on the other side have not marshalled their arguments one by one—because we know each other. There is the usual affirmation on the other side that it works hardship on the agricultural classes. It is supplemented by a reference to the economic depression. The agriculturists are hard hit. There is a surplus budget. Why not reduce the land-tax by 18 per cent? There is a warning heard from some member that the surplus may not materialise. It is pointed out, for instance that Java Sugar may not come. The hon'ble member Mr. Govinda Pai says that there are chances of the rosy anticipations being upset. I ask under these circumstances whether it is necessary, or worthwhile to reduce this land-tax and starve the works of public utility. On the inherent justice of the land-tax, there are some who maintain that people who have got proprietary possession of what Nature meant for all, to the exclusion of others must be made to pay for the comforts of the unprovided classes. That is one view. You may call it socialism, Marxian philosophy. Henry George says that the correct tax is the land-tax. I am not either for supporting it or for attacking it. I say there is that view. There is also another view that you cannot tax incomes for the simple reason that it is the result of man's work and that it is a most unjust tax. These are very controversial questions. We can postpone these thorny questions to some other opportunity. All these questions can be postponed to a calmer atmosphere and more lei surely time. Let us work out the question of temporary reduction.

On this question of remission of land-tax, our position has always been, from 1109 onwards when we gave a reduction of 18%, that the hon'ble members should not urge it as an invariable feature in every year's budget. Then it ceases to be a temporary remission at all. If the argument is that as long as the economic depression lasts there should be this reduction, we pass from the temporary remission region into a region of perpetual reduction. Economic depression is not likely to go. It seems to run on an inclined plane, as the mathematicians call it. Having started to run, it does not know where to stop. That being the position it is argued the temporary reduction also must go on for ever. If that is the argument I must take objection to it. We pointed out at the very earliest opportunity when we gave remission for 1109, 1110 and I think for 1111 also, that we hoped that ryots would make some adjustments in their financial needs. We also said we will help you, to increase your paying capacity. We have stuck to our promise. If you analyse the budget of an agriculturist it falls under four things: Firstly cost of production. It is not maintained that the cost of production has gone high. The cooly charges remain the same. I think, I shall be justified in saying that it has not to any appreciable proportion increased. Then there is the interest on debts to pay. We said we will help you by giving facilities. We started special loans. That scheme was found to be imperfect. We started a Land Mortgage Bank. We prospectively reduced the rate of interest and to-day there is on the anvil a piece of legislation which will reduce the rate of interest retrospectively also, if passed as it is, leaving alone all controversial matters. The rate of interest to be paid in the year 1115 which is the year with which we are concerned will be substantially reduced. If that Bill passes into law all the interest payable by the agriculturists not only in the year 1115 but even with respect to the arrears of interest will be reduced so that in one item itself i. e., interest, there has been an appreciable relief to the agriculturists of the State. Lastly, there remains the household necessities. We pointed out to the agriculturist that it is his duty to make some adjustments so that he may contribute to the public revenues the land tax which forms after all one of the major items in the budget. The depression started long ago. The cry—"our household necessities remain the same. We are unable to make any adjustments. Our finances are depressed"—cannot be annually raised. I put it to you—"have not the Government necessities also increased?" Government finances also are depressed. If you take away 18 % of the land revenue it means in effect you take away 18% of the works in the nation-building departments.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (Vadakkancheri): All these have gone to change the rental capacity of the properties. It is difficult to get persons to give the same rent as was paid some time

ago. Because the margin of profit derived by the tenant is narrowed so much so that almost all the properties yield a lower income. I do not mean that the yielding capacity of the land has changed and therefore the capacity of the tenant to pay the rent has terribly changed. That is what we find as a matter of experience in almost all places.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): We are concerned with the fall in price of the produce and the moment you concede it is stationary then I say out of that produce we have to make certain fixed demands. Cost of production remains the same.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): All these factors remaining the same there is justification to revise the assessment. If it is not to a permanent remission we ask for a temporary remission till the permanent remission can be had.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): I am dealing with the temporary remission. I think the hon'ble member had understood me, and if he has not understood me I am confident it is certainly my fault. I was dealing with the 18% reduction, and the usual argument was that the necessities of the agriculturist were such that he is justified to demand this 18% reduction in the tax payable by him. Out of the demand on his exchequer there are fixed demands, namely, the amount payable to Government by way of land-tax, cost of production, interest on debts and household necessities. So far as I know there can be no other category. I pointed out that the cost of production remains the same, if not lower. Interest paying capacity has been enhanced by timely succour given to him. Then with regard to the household necessities it is stated that he is not going to or cannot reduce them. One hon'ble member said that if he had a family and if it has increased that is a case for remission. That is no argument at all in this case. I might even say that he had no business to increase his family or his family wants in that manner, when he knew that he had no means to maintain them. We in 1109 had repeatedly warned the agriculturists that you cannot consistently go on asking the Government to cut short one of its basic requirements merely because there is economic depression going on. Government said we will help you in taxing your interest on debts. We said also we will help you in all possible ways.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (*Mattancheri*): What is the help given in every other circumstance?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Does the hon'ble member mean that the reduction of interest is not a help?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): You assume that interest is being paid.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): If it is said that interest is not being paid, then there was no inability to pay tax. It only proves that there are people who not only do not pay tax but who do not pay interest also. Now to that kind of people you cannot extend any relief at all. If the argument is that they are not in the habit of paying, the proposition reduces itself from a political problem to a psychological problem. All taxation is a sort of vexation and any relaxation will be a source of jubilation. That is the hon'ble members' view. We are unable to agree with it. It is not out of hard-headedness. Hard-headedness is something different from hard-headedness. That is the position of the Government on this matter. There are the preservative needs and the destructive hazards of the budget to be looked into. It is under these circumstances that the hon'ble members are asking us to cut down our revenue by 2 lakhs. This is all what I have to say on temporary reduction.

Now passing on to the Prawns, the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur said, it is the result of my ingenuity. I plead guilty. I happened to be one of those in the Committee which enquired into this matter. The Committee was of the opinion that this is a legitimate enterprise which can be taxed. It was not entirely within my power to impose this taxation. That was very clear. The matter was placed before the Government. A committee was appointed. There were very competent persons, for instance, Dr. A. R. Menon, Mr. Ambadi Sankara Menon, and Mr. George who is not now here. He was the champion of the prawn-producers here. And then there was also Mr. M. A. Sankunni. We went into the whole question. We met several leading members of the people who did not want the tax and also those who held that taxation is necessary. We ultimately came to the conclusion that this extraordinary profit received by a landholder from an extraordinary use of the land can legitimately be taxed and although we call it a tax it is in reality a license fee, ranging from Re. 1 to Rs. 3, in the case of an acre of land, whereas a reference to any of these areas will show that the minimum field ranges from Rs. 12 to Rs. 75. That is the tax which we have imposed. The Hon'ble Member for Cranganur speaking with regard to the customs revenue drew a delicate inference that that tax was after all a direct one. In other words the incidence of that taxation falls upon the consumer. If that is accepted, I say the incidence of taxation on prawns also falls upon the Burma consumer. Although you speak of it as a taxation, the man who has to pay it is the Burma man. To that extent the price of the prawns will be

increased. One thing about prawns is, the people here do not generally want to use it on a large scale.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Is there no consumption in this State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): There is only very little internal consumption. Prawns are being exported to Burma. The taxation ultimately falls upon the Burma consumer. If it is worth 4 annas here, they will charge Rs. 5 in Burma, because we have got a protected market in Burma. There is no other competitor of any importance. In the matter of prawns, Cochin is very favourably situated, so that if we raise a small tax upon it the man who suffers is ultimately the Burma man. We need not be very solicitous in that matter, because after all the tax is so negligible. I am sure the Hon'ble Minister now in charge of this Department has looked into the matter very carefully and I know what his opinions are on the question of the justice of this taxation. At any rate, the party in power is in one sense in charge of that department. It must be in their power to take it off or at least to make useful recommendations.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): The Minister cannot take away the revenues of the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): He cannot take away, revenues I know, but do you mean to say that his recommendations would be like the recommendations of another Head of Department (*Laughter*)? There is a world of difference. This is the position with reference to prawns.

Then lastly, there is the question of depressed classes. I am anxious about one matter. The Hon'ble Member for Depressed Classes very frankly said that they are in the habit of making encroachments. I have several times shown to this House that I am honestly and sincerely solicitous about the welfare of the depressed classes to the same extent as any other member in this House both constitutionally and by training. Supposing you were in my position, if there goes on a deliberate defiance of the constituted authority, what would you do? Let us look at what we have done. I can assure the hon'ble members that our words and threats in this matter have been more fierce than our deeds. In no places have they been actually evicted. That is the result. We tried to evict them. Fortunately now, I can expect a time when there will be no difficulty in regard to these encroachments, wherever there is any difficulty, I can consult the Hon'ble Minister and we can jointly decide the matter. I trust that we can settle any case without any difficulty. This is how the matters stand. These are the three points with reference to the Revenue Department.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Mr. President, Sir, I find it rather difficult to start my reply since so many points, some of them rather technical—have been raised about the various aspects of the budget. From the accounts of 1113 till the estimates of 1115, there have been a series of remarks touching upon most of its important phases. Probably it will be easier if we proceed by the years. If we do that and if I take up the accounts of 1113, one of the most important remarks that I heard in that connection was that really the accounts of 1113 did not disclose a balance; on the other hand really that year closed with a deficit. If the figures show a small surplus that was because of the sale of certain lands, and excluding that the administration of 1113 in its financial department has ended with an appreciable deficit. On this point, that is coming to the question of the sale of land and the credit of the money received on account of that, that question was raised in a more or less sharp form, even last year while we were discussing the estimates of the current year. It will be very interesting to note that the receipts that we have received on account of the sale of the reclamation lands have been of three kinds. One is capital value of the land extending to about 22½ lakhs, secondly interest on investments that we made from time to time towards this 22½ lakhs, and thirdly a small royalty on the reclaimed portion of the Willingdon island. With regard to this capital value of 22½ lakhs, I pointedly draw the attention of the House to that point in my speech. I covered that point at very great length to show that the whole of that income has been shown as an abatement under capital expenditure meaning thereby that not a pie of it has been taken to the current account and not a pie of it has gone to give us a surplus. The real expenditure that we made towards capital i. e., 22½ lakhs that amount has been taken away and it has not come into our revenue account on the receipt side at all. Therefore the surplus that we got was not in any way by taking a portion of this 22½ lakhs. The portion that we took credit for in the revenue account of 1113 was the interest and royalty. As for the interest, so long as interest charges on the outstanding loans are met from current revenues, it is but equitable and fair, and it is also very necessary that interest that is credited to us on account of our capital investments in previous years, should be taken into account in our revenue account. Otherwise the present generation has to pay unduly heavily for the sake of posterity and it is against the canons of public finance, as accepted everywhere. We are now paying interest on the outstanding loans of a crore and odd to the extent of nearly 5 lakhs. That 5 lakhs plus Rs. 75,000 on account of the sinking fund charges, very nearly in all 5½ lakhs, you will find, is a revenue charge in each of these years and so long as we pay interest out of our current revenue to the extent of 5½ lakhs, it is no wonder that we have to take receipt of the interest that we have

received on our capital investments of the previous years. There is nothing wrong in that and as for royalty that also cannot be booked except under current revenue and more than that to compensate as if it were for the receipt of this royalty which will amount to about 4.8 lakhs, 4½ lakhs have been set apart towards the Revenue Reserve Fund so that even if you exclude this royalty and contra you exclude also the revenue reserve fund still you get a net surplus of more than 25,000 rupees very nearly half a lakh of rupees. Therefore, the complaint that the year 1113 did not close with a surplus and that the Government managed to get over the difficult situation by sale of lands, is not correct.

Then another point that was made out was about the retrenchment. It was very humourously remarked that the only retrenchment the Government did was by sacking 23 gardeners. The hon'ble members forget very easily the saving of nearly 27½ thousand rupees under Stables, nearly quarter of a lakh of rupees in the manufacture of stamps, nearly 10 thousand on account of the reorganization of the Tramway Department and easily the recurring saving of over 10 thousand under T. A. There has been an annual recurring saving of nearly three quarters of a lakh of rupees. If you compare the figures for the last 3 years and forget this large recurring saving remembering only the retrenchment on account of the reduction in the Staff of the gardeners, that is very strange.

Another remark that I heard in the course of the last two days was that if you compare the expenditure of the previous years, that is from the year 1103 onwards, if you compare the increase in the expenditure from 1103 till 1113 you will find that proportionately very little of this rise in expenditure has gone to the credit of the nation-building departments. This morning I analysed the figures rather closely and this was the result of that investigation. In 1103 the total expenditure was about 67 lakhs. In 1113 the total expenditure if you leave out the Revenue Reserve Fund comes to about 100½ lakhs. The total increase in expenditure in 1113 as compared to 1103 may roughly be put at 33½ lakhs. Out of this 33½ lakhs, if you take departments like Education, Agriculture, Medical, Public Health, Panchayats, D. P. W., Industries, etc., you will find that easily more than 12 lakhs of this 33½ lakhs, somewhere very nearly 14 lakhs, has gone to the credit of these six to seven departments. You must also remember that to get corresponding increase in receipts, I mean between 1103 and 1113, certain new departments have come into being for example income-tax, matches and things like that. Since those departments cannot run without a recurring expenditure you might put about two lakhs on that account and then the expenditure will easily come to 17-18 lakhs and even with regard to other departments, you will find that there has been a growing increase in its receipts and when there is a growing

increase in receipts naturally you should also expect a small growing increase in expenditure, because the demands of those departments will be larger and to meet this contingency great expenditure will have to be incurred. Therefore, when you analyse this subject and look at the figures accurately, I cannot say that there has not been a proportionate increase under the nation-building departments. On the other hand, it has been very material.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): When you have spent 27 lakhs you have spent 11 lakhs for the nation-building department?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): When there has been a total expenditure of Rs. 33½ lakhs easily 14 lakhs can be shown to be purely on account of the nation building department and the rest of the expenditure is due to the creation of new departments. For example, when you started the Income-tax Department which was not in existence, we cannot but spend about a lakh or a lakh and a half. If you want income-tax you must be ready to spend some money for its maintenance. That is inevitable. Similarly, in the case of other departments, you will find that there have been increasing receipts and every item of increased receipts means wider activity and that in its turn means a larger commitment on the part of the department. You cannot get increased receipts from any department without widening its activities. And then you must expect a small rise in expenditure. The rise of 15 lakhs or 16 lakhs you will find is spread over 28 or 27 budget heads. It is not at all exceedingly very much.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): One point is conceded. When your income has increased by 18 lakhs you have spent 26 lakhs.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): The hon'ble member is very much mistaken. He forgets that in 1103 most probably the entire expenditure has not been utilised. To say that the increased income is only 18 lakhs and the increase in expenditure is 26 lakhs is a mistaken notion.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): The income shown in the estimate is wrong.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): It is the conclusion that the hon'ble member has drawn that is wrong. There have been large surpluses in those years. It is forgetting that it is said that while the increased income is 18 lakhs the increased expenditure is 26 lakhs. The increase in expenditure is only 37 lakhs.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): 85 lakhs has been shown as receipts. Is it correct?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): That is absolutely correct. There was a saving of about

18 lakhs. The income was 85 lakhs and the expenditure was only 67 lakhs. There was thus a saving of 18 lakhs. If you leave the saving of 18 lakhs, the expenditure will be reduced by 18 lakhs.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): Increased income is only 18 lakhs. To collect that 18 lakhs you have spent 26 lakhs.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): Medical, Public Works, Agriculture, D. P. W., Panchayats, Registration, for these 6 or 7 departments, it comes to 14 or 15 lakhs. The increase in expenditure under Education is not to collect more taxes. The increase in expenditure under Land Revenue, Income-tax, etc., might be to collect more taxes. That is not so in the case of Medical, Panchayats, D. P. W. Their income is practically nil. It is all expenditure so far as those departments are concerned. In the case of Land Revenue, Registration and Income-tax Departments, you will find more receipts and very little of expenditure. It is in such departments that you have to spend a little more if you want to get something more. That is the reason why we cannot expect to have all this rise in receipts to be devoted completely to nation-building departments. Certain payments become inevitable if you want to increase receipts. Besides there is also the large rise in interest payment etc., etc.

Then another point that was tried to be made out was that there has been under-estimating of expenditure and over-estimating of receipts. That is a general remark, which we always get if we introduce a surplus budget. If we introduce a deficit budget the remark will be quite the reverse, namely under-estimating of receipts and over-estimating of expenditure. That is a common remark which every budget has to face.

With regard to this complaint of over-estimating expenditure, if you compare the revised estimate with the budget estimate of next year you will find that the budget estimate is put at 102.87 lakhs as against 100.66 lakhs of the revised estimate. When we prepare the budget estimate, the first set of figures for guidance is the revised estimate of the current year and next, the budget estimate of the current year and then the actuals of the previous year. From that it is clear that we have budgetted for expenditure more than the revised estimate. When this is so, how can we say that we have under-estimated our expenditure.

Then there was a doubt whether the full grant of contribution to the Road Development Board has been made. If you take the 1115 budget you will see 1½ lakhs provided. In previous year only Rs. 78,000 was provided. There is a special reason for this. When the Road Development Board was started, certain roads which they wanted to be started, had already been started. Therefore the

expenditure that the Government incurred in those works had to be taken away from the earnings of the Road Development Board Fund, and that is the reason why in the previous years you could not find the whole amount.

In the case of the receipts you will find that we have put 24.25 lakhs as the customs revenue. I do not know why that should be considered as over-estimating of revenue. We have always been receiving customs revenue of about Rs. 24 or Rs. 25 lakhs.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (Adur): Has the customs revenue ever come above 20 lakhs?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): Even last year, it was 25½ lakhs. Only one year it came to 13½ lakhs, on account of the sudden fall in import of Java sugar. If you look into the figures, you can easily see from 1103 customs receipts has come to 20 lakhs and more. Therefore that point also seems to fail very much.

In this connection, I would like to mention one point as well. With regard to the Forests, one of the hon'ble members remarked that the expenditure under it has risen by one and odd lakhs. There was a special reason for that. When the Special Finance Committee's report was published it was suggested that for all timber that is transported by Tramway, even though it be for the Forest Department, freight charges should be levied. They never used to pay freight charges before, both being Departments of the Government. When this Committee report was published, it was suggested that for purpose of accounting and to know whether the Tramway is working at a gain or a loss the income got by transporting Sirkar timber should also be shown as a receipt. Therefore, naturally, the Forest Department had to pay freight charges for the timber that it brings down. That comes to one and a quarter lakhs. You can easily verify this if you compare the receipt of the Tramway. While in 1103 the income was only Rs. 20,000 in the actuals of 1104 you will find that it has risen to 1,40,000. This expenditure of the Forests is a receipt of the Tramway Department. There is no extra expenditure in the Forest Department.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Easa Sait (Mattancheri): Is this one lakh of rupees under Tramway represent freight charges?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Comptroller of Finance and Accounts): The Forest Department brings down its own timber from the hills. Now, when that timber was carried on the Tramway, formerly, no freight charges used to be levied. From 1104 it was decided that freight charges should be levied. Therefore, the Forest Department had to pay 1¼ lakhs to the Tramway and that is the

reason for the excess expenditure, in recent years in the Forest Department. It is an expenditure which is of the nature of an adjustment between the Forest and the Tramway.

I have exhausted almost all the points. Only one more remains. That is a remark that the calculation about taxation which we find in the Diwan's speech is not accurate. For all practical purposes the calculation is quite accurate. If you go through the academical doctrines of text books you will find that court fee papers are regarded as additional taxation and that amount might have to be divided per capita. If you so divide it might be 6 annas or 8 annas. So far as the Anchal Department is concerned I do not think it can be considered as a source of taxation.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): What about tolls ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Anchal and tolls should not be taken into account. Court-fee papers alone you can add. Even if you add that, it will be somewhere near six or eight annas. It does not make a material difference. All the important items of taxation that is generally taken into account for the purpose of calculating the incidence of taxation are all in that speech.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): How does it stand comparison with either Travancore or British Malabar ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Compared to Malabar, taxation in the State will be much less. Malabar does not get either its customs or income-tax. If you take away 24½, or say 25 lakhs plus 7½ lakhs, or 32½ lakhs in all and also some other classes of revenue, for example salt also is an imperial revenue, you will find that about 35 to 36 lakhs of revenue which we get here will not be received in Malabar if they want to run the Departments as efficiently and in the same way as is done here. Naturally therefore, money should come from elsewhere. That means the incidence of taxation is very much higher in Malabar than here.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Andhra District ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Mr. Warriar asked me about Malabar. The same remark applies to any other district.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): Travancore ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I have not compared. I have not studied their budget figures. I do not therefore venture to pass any remarks. In that

speech also there is no comparison between Travancore and Cochin. It is all between British India and Cochin.

Lastly, now, Sir, I am very thankful to the hon'ble members and I express my personal gratitude on behalf of the Government for the kind suggestions that they have placed at our disposal.

The House rose for the day at 4-15 p. m.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.